

From: Kevin Jones
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 2:51am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To: Charles James
Justice Department
Re: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Chief James,

I would like my opinion reviewed and included in the settlement notes. I am writing as an Independent computer consultant and a consumer. As a 15 year veteran computer user I feel that Microsoft has done much harm by frustrating and flounder the development of many opposing or superior technologies. This has been evidenced in so many ways only, some of which have been brought out in this trial. YES they used their influence to control developers and vendors in many ways, and they continue to do so today. These are the real losses for the consumer. Many of the competing technologies have had better systems then Microsoft. We will never know what could have been, if some of these other competing technologies had made it to market. The fact that the Department of Justice has little control over big businesses buying small businesses with competing technologies is the real problem. How many new technologies that could change the world sit on the shelves of large corporations? Is this right? Should big business be allowed to protect their current interests, at the expense of the public loss of these new technologies? If so, then how do you settle an unknown and unmeasurable loss to the world?

The settlement offered by Microsoft is a JOKE! This is just chump change to Microsoft. They are going to provide software that costs them pennies to make, and take credit for a billion dollar tax write off. Tell me, how is this JUSTICE? They should be required to help other competing technologies. This could be done by forcing Microsoft to contributing at least 10% of their total revenue to date into a fund that would be used to further new computer technologies. This solution would have two affects. It should deter other big business from this type of behavior in the future, and it may produce some even better technologies. Limitations put on the use of the money should include that Microsoft not be allowed to participate, in any principal way, with any of the businesses receiving funds. Microsoft or its key partners should not ever be allowed to purchase any of the businesses receiving proceeds from the fund. This is the only way that someone may be able to challenge the control of Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jones

Chandler, AZ